

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 10 are amended hereby. Claim 15 is added hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, Applicant has attached a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes, with corrected drawings. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings are now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended the specification and claim 4 and submits that claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,037 (Young et al.), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10, and submit that claims 1-8 and 10-14 are now in condition for allowance.

Young et al. disclose a shallow recessed floor box 20 (Figs. 1-3) including hollow interior 26, top opening 28, wiring compartments 30, 32, 34 and 36, and conductor tunnels 38, 40, 42 and 44 (column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 3). Cover 53 pivots open allowing access to interior 26. Around the periphery of bracket plate 50 are adjacently disposed power and communication assemblies 54 and 56(column 3, lines 17-24). Referring to Fig. 1, power and communication assemblies 54 and 56 are positioned at an angle. Power and communication assemblies 54 and 56 are electrically connected to in-floor distribution systems 22 and 24. Floor box 20 is activated by inserting a power or communications plug (not shown) into the appropriate power or communication interface 166 and 168, thereby establishing communication between the plug and in-floor distribution system 22 and 24 (column 6, lines 25-39).

In contrast claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a housing having a plurality of openings including a first opening and a second opening; and

at least one pass-through connector, at least one said pass-through connector being at least partially disposed in said second opening.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Young et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Young et al. disclose a shallow recessed floor box 20 including power and communication assemblies 54 and 56 that are electrically connected to in-floor distribution systems 22 and 24. However, Young et al. fails to disclose or suggest a housing having a plurality of openings including a first opening and a second opening and at least one pass-through connector, at least one pass-through connector being at least partially disposed in the second opening, as is recited in part in amended claim 1. An advantage of Applicant's invention over Young et al and the other cited references is that the pass-through connector allows detachable connections within the floor box. Another advantage of Applicant's invention is that the pass-through connector allows detachable connections outside of the floor box. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-8 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Additionally claim 10, as amended, recites in part, "disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector." (Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Young et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Young et al. disclose a shallow recessed floor box 20 including power and communication assemblies 54 and 56 that are electrically connected to in-floor distribution systems 22 and 24.

However, Young et al. fails to disclose or suggest a step of disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector, as is recited in part in amended claim 10. An advantage of Applicant's invention over Young et al and the other cited references is that the pass-through connector allows detachable connections within the floor box. Another advantage of Applicant's invention is that the pass-through connector allows detachable connections outside of the floor box. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10, and claims 11-14 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,285,009 (Bowman et al.). However, claim 9 depends from claim 1, which has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

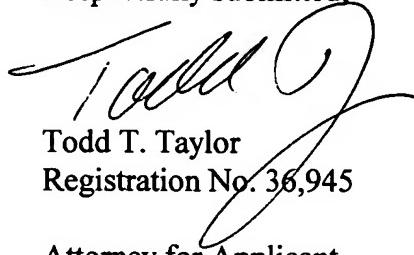
Additionally, claim 15 has been added hereby to further protect the patentable subject matter of the present invention. Specifically, claim 15 recites in part that, "at least one said pass-through connector is interconnected to one of electrical power, data and telecommunications." Applicant submits that such an invention is disclosed in the disclosure and shown in Fig. 3 and is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by any of the cited references, alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on: June 14, 2002.

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Signature

June 14, 2002

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Title: RECEPTACLE BOX FOR AN UNDER FLOOR SYSTEM

Application Serial No.: 10/016,398 Group: 2831

Examiner: Angel R. Estrada



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ATTACHMENT A:
MARKED-UP COPY SHOWING AMENDMENTS

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Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11:

Electrical connector 26, also referred to as [a power] pass-through connector 26, is connected to housing 12 and passes electrical power and/or signals therethrough. Electrical connector 26 is configured to receive a mating [electrical] power connector 27 on the exterior of housing 12 in order to receive electrical power and/or signals. The portion of electrical connector 26, that is in the interior of housing 12, is configured to receive a mating connector that is electrically coupled to a receptacle included in mounting assembly 16. Power connector 27 is detachably connected to pass-through connector 26.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An underfloor receptacle box, comprising:
a housing having [at least one opening] a plurality of openings including a first opening
and a second opening;
a lid detachably attached to said housing substantially closing said first opening;
at least one pass-through connector, at least one said pass-through connector being at least
partially disposed in said second opening; and
an insert having at least one angled wall, said insert being removably connected to said housing, said insert having a continuous wireway between said at least one angled wall and said

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housing.

4. (Amended) The receptacle box of claim 3, further comprising [wherein said housing has a second opening with] a power connector [passing therethrough, said electrical connector] configured to detachably connect to said [power] pass-through connector.

10. (Amended) A method of reconfiguring an underfloor receptacle box, comprising the steps of:

removing a mounting assembly from the underfloor receptacle box;
disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector; and
installing a pre-configured mounting assembly into the underfloor receptacle box.

15. (New) The receptacle box of claim 1, wherein at least one said pass-through connector is interconnected to one of electrical power, data and telecommunications.